



# SNIPS 'N CLIPS

A Cutting Edge Publication by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

October 2019

Volume 44

Number 10

## What's New!

- **PLEASE NOTE ALL MEETINGS ARE NOW STARTING AT 6:30PM TO ACCOMMODATE REVISED HOURS OF OPERATION OF THE LION'S FIELD.**
- **October 12<sup>th</sup> – Beat Cancer with Bonsai Sale** – Please come out to support Steve B.'s wife, Cheri, through her cancer treatments with the selling of Steve's bonsai. Steve has bougies, ficus, cypress, junipers, zelkova, myrtles, elms, portulacarias, redwood, anaqua, grape, jade, fukien tea, boxwood, buttonwood, brazilian rain tree, mimosa, pots, hydraulic cart, and many others. 9am-2pm at Ryan O.'s house.
- **October 18-20<sup>th</sup> – TTSBE's Kathy Shaner Seminar** – TTSBE is hosting Kathy Shaner in a 3-day workshop/seminar near Austin. Room is still available.
- **October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Olive Workshop** - led by John R. Send \$35 for a pot and tree to Leydana M.
- **October 26<sup>th</sup> – Art Under the Oaks at The Garden Center** – Ryan O. is looking for volunteers to display tree and to discuss bonsai to guests at our booth. Please email Ryan O. if you are available. 9am-3pm. We will also be promoting the 2020 convention.

All lecture/demonstration meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 6:30pm, at the Lions Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, SATX 78209

Our Bonsai Study Group is held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 6:30pm, Lions Field. All members are invited to attend for hands-on assistance by experienced bonsai artists.

## OCTOBER'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Winter plant preparation with David R.

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Evelyn K. & Virgie V.

### Bonsai Study Group:

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

## NOVEMBER'S EVENTS

### Lecture/Demo:

November 14<sup>th</sup> – Fall Auction

### Food/Beverage Host(s):

Ester R., Diana B., & Roberto M.

### Bonsai Study Group:

**NO MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY**

## MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fees for The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. are below and include our monthly newsletter, annual BBQ and bonsai tour, multiple auctions, special trips, and name tag.

Individual	Family	Senior (60+)	Individual	Senior (60+)	Family
\$30	\$50	\$25			\$40

# President's Message

Klaus C.  
collklaus@yahoo.com

Nick and Leydana are leaving the Board of Directors. We thank them for their diligent service and ask for your nomination for board members.

Two board members, Larry and Diane finished their two year term and face re-election. Contact our nominating committee of Ester R. ([newblooms1028@gmail.com](mailto:newblooms1028@gmail.com)), Evelyn K. ([evelynk1945@yahoo.com](mailto:evelynk1945@yahoo.com)) and Virgie V. ([virgievargo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:virgievargo@sbcglobal.net)) if you would like to nominate yourself or others to the Board. Please expedite this process by making it a priority. We hope to conduct the election prior to our auction on Nov 14.

In order to implement the winterizing strategies we present them sooner. David R. on October 10 will share and encourage use of this information.

The Auction will be Nov 14<sup>th</sup> and we look forward for items donated and items bid on during the auction. The success of the auction relies on your generous donations and bidding. Both are needed for our major fundraiser to support our many activities.

Please note: All activities start 6:30pm in order to leave by 8:30pm. Building has to be empty and lights off by 9:00pm. Thank you for the great support by all setting up and returning tables, chairs, etc.

## Convention Updates!

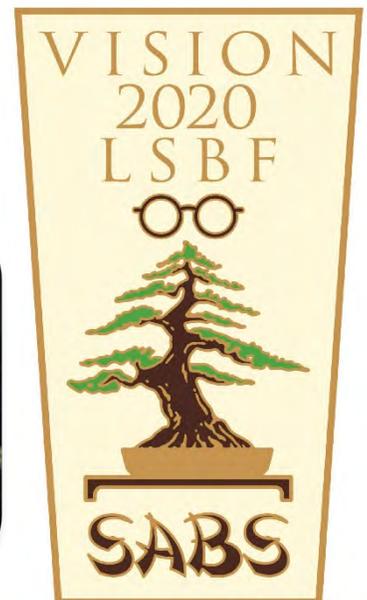
**Next Convention meeting will be held November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:30 am at Donna D's Studio Sculptural Designs Atelier at 927 N. Alamo Street, 78215.**

For Convention Committee members, please bring all drawings, plans, ideas, brochures, and achievements since our last meeting. We are getting to a critical point in point in our convention development planning whereby specifics of each aspect of the of the convention need to be discussed and voted upon.

A few draft copies of the registration packed will be on display at Ryan O.'s House on October 12<sup>th</sup> for review.

We are shooting for open registration on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Our new banner promoting the 2020 Convention!!!!**



# Program Corner

Ryan O.  
bonsaiode@gmail.com

September was a busy month for lectures/demonstrations outside of our normal meeting times. SABS sponsored a wonderful lecture/demo at The Garden Center that drew a crowd of 20 listeners despite a chance of rain and hot/humid temperatures. Conrad G. and Veronica T. assisted myself throughout the demonstration and also contributed with valuable information. Maybe they are becoming the next-in-line presenters for SABS. The lecture also drew many members to the event including Paul and Dawn T. and Klaus and Diane C. The listeners were from young kids to well-aged folks (trying to be P.C.!!).

The next event was the Fall Home and Garden Show at the Alamodome. A huge thanks to Kevin and Hattie P., Jay N., Steve B., Conrad G, Veronica T, and Klaus and Diane C. for assisting and attending the booth. Once again our display was top notch and drew hundreds of on-lookers into the booth to view the trees and ask thousands of questions. We even had a mascot – a small anole hitched a ride from someone’s backyard to the Alamodome where he/she hung out all weekend jumping from tree to tree.

Both events were used as huge promotional platforms for the 2020 convention. SABS even got technical by adding a QR code visitors could scan that placed the convention into their phone calendars.

Here are a few pictures from booth events.



# You Speak... Editor Prints...

*Below continues a mini-series by Donna D., our 2020 Convention Curator, which will be included in our newsletters up to our convention. This mini-series prepare your trees for display. Enjoy!!!*

## October Exhibit Guide for 2020

This is the second installment of articles that hopefully will help you make the selection of one of your trees for the 2020 Convention exhibit and begin your preparations now, seek help, it is a very fulfilling experience.

We want each member to display a bonsai. The formal exhibit elevates your selection like you will not believe, "is that really my bonsai". Include your choices of companion plant or figurine and the added scenic element of a scroll or painting or a scene you have chosen to add to the drama of your display.

You're presenting an imaginary landscape or vista a quest for beauty an artistic realm that shows how your particular tree grows. Tell a story with your bonsai. The viewer will be engulfed in the tale you have presented; a painting in 3 dimensions.

Be sure and come to the October meeting for there will be more bonsai on display. I will be there to answer questions, if you have made a preliminary selection of one of you trees, please bring with you. If I am not well versed in the particular species someone in the club will be and you will find your mentor.

See you soon, Donna D.



**Texas Persimmon**

# Bonsai Techniques

Courtesy of John Miller  
from the Dallas Bonsai Society

Time to take a good look at your tropicals. Before going into the dry low light conditions most of us have for winter quarters they need to be vigorous, pruned and free of problems. Give them a good feeding preferably with an organic fertilizer. If you use a water soluble type use a low dilution and feed every 2-3 days. Prune all new growth back to the trees best shape. To increase ramification on developed trees keep any new growth pinched to 2-3 leaves. Use you desired insecticide and/or fungicide now and again just before you take them in.

Remember that some tropicals do not like to go below 50 degrees while others are only semitropical and will take a frost but does not want their roots frozen. The buttonwood is an example of the first group and the crepe myrtle would be in the second. Here in the Dallas-Ft Worth area we will probably not see a freeze until late in November but there may be some cool nights in October. I prefer to leave the tropicals out as long as possible. I want the semi-tropicals to go dormant and then put them in a cool location to stay dormant all winter.

Now is the time to start your outdoor trees toward their winter siesta. If you wait until the temperature drops, you get too rushed and omit some of the little housekeeping duties. Start now by making sure that the area will be free of insects and other vermin.

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down close together. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

Kathy Shaner suggests removing the top half-inch of soil and replenishing it with new soil. This will remove weed seeds that have blown in and will make next year's job easier. Of course if you plan on repotting next spring that is not necessary.

Winter quarters: Remember that here in Texas more trees are lost in the winter due to drying out than to the cold. Of course that does not mean for you to leave the tropicals out or to let the roots freeze on southern trees like the crape myrtle. Even in a greenhouse or sunny window the soil can dry out amazingly fast. The wind in winter has amazing drying powers too. (Ask your grandmother about hanging the wash and letting it dry while frozen stiff.) So while you protecting the roots be sure to give it a wind screen and make sure that you can check the soil for watering needs (it helps here if you know which particular plants dry out faster and so you can situate them together). A lot of winter kill comes because the soil has frozen and the sun or wind is removing water from the tops. The roots cannot obtain water to replenish the loss and the top desiccates to the point of death.

For the beginners, plants like the cedar elm, oak, maple that are hardy much further north can be set on a clean gravel bed. When the real cold (26 or lower) gets here cover the pots with 3-4 inches of a fairly loose mulch so that the ground heat will help keep you pots warm. Plants that grow south of Dallas, crape myrtle, firethorn, some azalea, need to have more root protection. I like to let them get frostbit but bring them in before freezing. Of course the tropicals need to be babied.

All this is basically talking about the broadleaf deciduous trees. Evergreens do not go fully dormant in winter and need to be exposed to sunlight. Some broadleaf evergreen types like boxwoods slow way down but still

need sunlight. Some leave the needled evergreens on top of benches all winter but I prefer to give the roots the same basic winter protection of deciduous trees but they have a higher water need.

Feeding of deciduous trees should be discontinued for the winter. Evergreens and conifers will benefit from a low nitrogen feeding. One such mix might be 70% cottonseed meal and 30% bonemeal. Being organic, this will breakdown into nutrients more slowly as the season gets cooler and the trees activity slows also. The organic spray given below can be used as a soil drench but dilute it a little more. Kelp is an excellent source of the essential minor elements needed by plants.

Insects will continue to be present. Cooler (but not cold) days mean a resurgence of the aphids. Mites will also still be around and will jump into action during a warm spell. Scale also can be a problem. Treat with a light horticultural oil which will kill the adults and also wipe out the eggs and overwintering pupae. Be sure to cover all the cracks in the bark to get to the eggs. The organic spray (one tablespoon each liquid kelp, fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and molasses in one gallon of water) should still be used on a regular schedule and will work on evergreens and will also give them some nutrients. The dead scale shell will probably have to be removed physically. A soft toothbrush works for me (I sometimes need to wet the branch to loosen the scale shell).

When the leaves start turning the sap has quit for the year and you may check the branches and twigs to see if any need to be trimmed. Cutting back any protruding branches will keep them from snagging and possibly breaking other trees when you put them down close together. Don't cut the buds off the spring flowering plants unless absolutely necessary if you want flowers next spring.

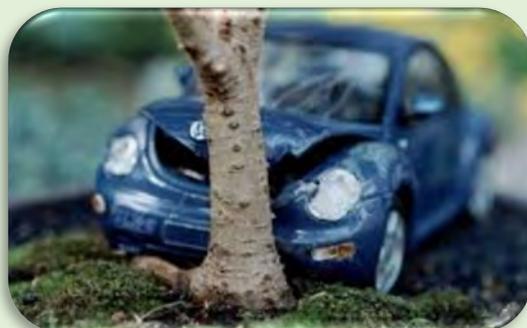
Some may repot in the fall but I feel that it is counter-productive to do so if you can do it during bud break in the spring. New roots are more prone to freeze damage if we get a bad winter. It has been stated that the key to safe repotting is to minimize root disturbance and to exclude severe root pruning. This seems to me to be a recipe for developing root problems, poor drainage leading to root rot and the inability of the old soil to hold enough water to last all day. No heavy pruning will lead to the lack of refinement and a top heavy tree. I would recommend that repot at the proper time next spring which is when the buds swell and new growth is imminent.



## BONSAI FUNNIES

**Don't bonsai  
and drive.  
Bonsai can wait!**

*Images provided by various internet sources.*



## 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ◆ President: Klaus C.
- ◆ Vice President/Recorder: Nick B.
- ◆ Treasurer/Membership: Leydana R-M.
- ◆ Secretary: Bryan B.
- ◆ Raffles: Diane C.
- ◆ Directors at Large: Larry A., Carol B., Tammy B-R., and Jay N.

### Technical Support to Board of Directors

- ◆ Webmaster/Editor/Publicity: Ryan O.



The informal upright style (Moyogi) is considered the most popular shape in all bonsai, especially suited to our Texas native Ashe Juniper.

Our logo, represented by this informal style stands for the informal nature of The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc. This popular, interesting style depicts the objectives of the Society – promoting participation and enjoyment of Bonsai. This emblem was adopted as the official logo in September 1977.

### The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc.

Snips 'N Clips is published monthly by The San Antonio Bonsai Society, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, who maintains membership in the Lone Star Bonsai Federation, Inc., Bonsai Clubs International, and the American Bonsai Society.

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